



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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135th IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 23 – 27.10.2016

The war and the severe humanitarian situation in Syria, particularly in Aleppo

Resolution adopted by consensus by the 135th IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 26 October 2016)*

The 135th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Deploring the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people in the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria), most of them civilians,

Recalling that over 11 million people have lost their homes in Syria, 6.5 million of whom are internally displaced, and that 4.8 million have had to flee abroad,

Also recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Further recalling that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (1949) provides that direct attacks against civilian targets constitute a war crime,

Taking account of the resolutions of the 134th IPU Assembly (Lusaka), the 133rd IPU Assembly (Geneva), the 128th IPU Assembly (Quito) and in particular, the resolution of the 126th IPU Assembly (Kampala) entitled *Inter-Parliamentary Union initiative for an immediate halt to the bloodshed and human rights violations in Syria, and the need to ensure access to humanitarian aid for all persons in need and to support implementation of all relevant Arab League and United Nations resolutions and peace efforts*,

Also taking account of United Nations Security Council resolution 2258 of 22 December 2015, “reaffirming the primary responsibility of the Syrian authorities to protect the population in Syria and, reiterating that parties to armed conflict must take all feasible steps to protect civilians, and recalling in this regard its demand that all parties to armed conflict comply fully with the obligations applicable to them under international law related to the protection of civilians in armed conflict, including journalists, media professionals and associated personnel”; and *noting* that this resolution highlights the role of the Syrian authorities in the conflict and the actions of terrorist organizations operating in Syria,

Emphasizing that United Nations Security Council resolution 2258 (2015) notes “the role that ceasefire agreements which are consistent with humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law can play in facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance in order to help save civilian lives”; and *taking into account* all relevant Human Rights Council resolutions on Syria,

Noting, with regard to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, that those who perpetrate war crimes, including crimes against humanity, must be held responsible,

* The Syrian Arab Republic rejected the entire resolution. Cuba expressed a reservation on operative paragraph 5 and preambular paragraphs 5, 6 and 8.

Considering that Syria has signed and ratified the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, which has not been respected; and *stressing* the incalculable historic value of the ancient city of Aleppo, which is part of the heritage of humanity,

Emphasizing that, in the long term, the situation for people in Syria cannot be improved through humanitarian measures, but only through political negotiations,

1. *Condemns* in the strongest possible terms crimes, which target attacks against civilians in Syria, such as the targeting of hospitals, and attacks on and blockading of aid convoys, which are depriving over 550,000 civilians in besieged areas from almost all humanitarian aid;
2. *Calls upon* all parties to the conflict to stop attacking civilians and civilian infrastructure, and besieging and forcefully evacuating cities, and to stop the suffering of people, with immediate effect;
3. *Appeals* to the parties to the conflict to reinstate the ceasefire agreement of 12 September 2016;
4. *Urges* the United States of America and the Russian Federation and all relevant parties involved in the conflict to resume serious dialogue aiming at a permanent, peaceful and political solution and at maintaining the unity and integrity of Syria, and to bring an end to this war that is claiming the lives of men, women and children;
5. *Requests* the United Nations Security Council to fulfil its primary responsibility of maintaining world peace and international security;
6. *Urges* the parties to the conflict to ensure the security and freedom of movement of humanitarian personnel, including those exclusively carrying out medical duties, medical staff, and United Nations staff; and *supports* the initiatives taken by the United Nations regarding humanitarian aid;
7. *Demands* immediate, unimpeded and permanent humanitarian and medical access in order to ensure that supplies reach the civilian population;
8. *Requests* its Members to undertake efforts to encourage their countries to increase emergency aid to the region, and support, in every possible way, aid organizations on the ground;
9. *Calls upon* the international community to make firm commitments and adequately support Syria's neighbouring countries, which are providing assistance to the refugees, to mitigate and address the impact of the large influx of Syrian refugees;
10. *Also calls upon* parliamentarians to urge their Governments to support the UNESCO campaign Unite4heritage, an initiative that stems from the destruction of the heritage of humanity in Syria and Iraq, and that is designed to support, champion and safeguard cultural inheritance;
11. *Urges* its Members to monitor the situation in Syria, to commit the parliamentary community to undertake further efforts to improve the situation in Syria, and to remain in close contact with all relevant parties, as well as the League of Arab States and the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, which hold the status of Permanent Observers at the IPU.